Financing by NHB

1945. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has been financing housing schemes and projects through the Non-Banking Housing Finance Companies (NBHFCs); and

(b) if so, the extent of refinance made by NHB through NBHFCs in Uttar Pradesh, compared to that in other States during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) refinances eligible primary lending institutions including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) against the individual housing loans extended by them. NHB provides direct finance to public agencies for housing and related projects. NHB had also provided project finance through banks/HFCs in the past.

(b) As reported by NHB, the total refinance disbursed by NHB to HFCs in Uttar Pradesh and other States during 2002-03 & 2003-04 is given below. Information in respect of the year 2004-05 is available only after the close of the accounting year on 31st March, 2005.

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Amount Disbursed Uttar Pradesh	Other States
2002-03	68.80	1697.89
2003-04	42.10	1808.48

Excise Duty on Tabacco Products

†1946. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose new tax and excise duty on tobacco and its products on the basis of the report on tobacco control;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the comparative details of the revenue being earned at present through tobacco and its products and the expenses incurred on the treatment of diseases caused by consumption of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) During financial year 2003-04, total excise revenue earned through tobacco and its products was Rs. 6636 crore (provisional). According to-the estimates of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the treatment of tobacco related diseases and to loss of productivity caused thereon in the country cost almost Rs. 13,500 crore annually.

Eligibility for H.R.A.

1947. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the admissibility and eligibility of House Rent Allowance to Government servants is subject to producing Ration Card, LPG connection, Electoral Identity Card, Landlord's House Rent Receipt etc. otherwise they are not eligible and entitled to draw House Rent Allowance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) under what provision of H.R.A. Rules, the above requirements are demanded by Government from the Government servants and the details of those cases in which Government have denied to make payment of HRA on account of non-fulfilment of the above -requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.